

project was in too crude a state, and the old company promised to amend and reduce the price to 6s. 8d. per thousand feet.

As a considerable profit is to be derived from the manufacture of gas, it is to be hoped the new Health of Towns Bill, to be introduced by her Majesty's ministers, will place both the supply of water and gas in the hands of the municipal authorities, and the profits derived may be applied either in the reduction of taxation or to the permanent improvement of the city.

It has occurred to us, that in this age of shares and electric telegraphs, the system of lighting the public lamps might be improved, and the old fashioned lamplighter, with his long ladder, &c., dispensed with, a great nuisance in populous places. We think that the day has arrived when the public lamps should be lighted simultaneously by the aid of galvanism.

We trust that the spirit of improvement which has recently manifested itself in Chester will respect many of those venerable and antiquated buildings that add so much to the interest of the place, both to the lover of archæology and antiquarianism, and that they will be preserved by the authorities with as much religious sanctity as the "rows" and the venerable walls that encompass the renowned city. The cathedral and other public edifices, erected of the soft red sandstone of the district, exhibit outward marks of rapid decay, and it is to be regretted that the restorations that are slowly taking place are being executed in the same friable material, although good durable stone can be obtained from Marley and Pechforton, as evidenced in the County Hall, Grosvenor Bridge, and other buildings in the locality. A fine throne has recently been erected in the cathedral from the design of Mr. Hussey.

We cannot close this article without mentioning the disgraceful practice of burying the dead within the boundaries of the town. The surface of St. John's churchyard appears to be raised nearly 3 feet above its original level, from the accumulation of dead bodies that have been deposited there. Surely another session will not be allowed to elapse, and this disgraceful state of things continue.

It is contemplated to erect a magnificent central station for the five railways meeting in Chester, and that a new approach to the city will be formed. We trust that the railway companies will not be niggardly in their expenditure, but make an approach worthy of their combined energies and the citizens of Chester.

We observed that the Chester and Holyhead Railway Company had most sacrilegiously crossed an angle of the wall near the Water Tower, and, in consideration, had put up two most hideous beam bridges, instead of structures in character with the wall and the adjacent towers, and they are condemned by every man of taste as evincing discreditable parsimoniousness on the part of the company, and paying the citizens of Chester but a poor compliment.

The designs of the stations on the Chester and Shrewsbury Railway display some tact and judgment, and are gratifying proofs that some of the railway companies, at least, are sensibly alive to the importance of a little architectural embellishment.

AWARDS OF OFFICIAL REFEREES.

PROJECTIONS—OPEN PORTICO.

MR. ALLEN had commenced in Spring-street, Paddington, a small portico, formed of two columns supporting an entablature, which projected somewhat less than the front area, and was wholly on his own ground. He quoted the following from schedule E in support of his proceeding:—

"As to all balconies, verandahs, porches, porticoes, shop-fronts, open inclosures of open areas, and steps, and water-pipes, and to all other projections from external walls, not forming part thereof, every such projection (except such part of shop-fronts, and the frames and sashes of the windows and doors, in reference to the necessary woodwork thereof) may stand beyond the general line of fronts in any street or alley; but they must be built of brick, tile, stone, artificial stone, slate, cement, or metal, or other proper and sufficient fire-proof materials, and they must be so built as not to overhang the ground belonging to any other owner, and so as not to obstruct the light

and air, or be otherwise injurious to the owners or occupiers of the buildings adjoining thereto on any side thereof."

The district-surveyor, at the instance of the adjoining owners, objected; and the decision of the referees was therefore sought. The award was:—

"That the portico in question would be injurious to the owners and occupiers of the buildings on the sides thereof, and that, therefore, it would be contrary to the provisions of the Metropolitan Buildings Act to project the same before the general line of the shop-fronts on the same side of the street."

CORBELLING FOR CHIMNEYS.

MR. W. SNOOK, in building two second-rate houses, Edith Villas, North End, Fulham, had committed what the district-surveyor considered an irregularity; "namely, the chimney-breast and stack have been corbelled over the whole space, between the front and back chimney breasts, on the front thereof, on the floor next below the top floor, and to a projection exceeding 4½ inches."

The referees determined, "that the operation in question is not expressly provided for by the Metropolitan Buildings Acts, or either of them, but that the surveyor of the district was justified in laying his information; and inasmuch as the projection of the chimneys is between two chimney breasts, which are built from the foundation, of not less projection than the overhanging work, the subject of the information; and the construction is good and safe; such operation is not to be deemed contrary to the said Acts."

STEAM PIPES.

MESSRS. COLLARD, of Tottenham-court-road, having inadvertently laid iron pipes for heating their workshops so as to infringe the Act of Parliament, appealed to the referees with the hope that "as there was no possibility of accident to the building or property therein from such pipes, they being on a much safer principle than the plan long adopted by themselves in other departments of their business, and almost universally through the pianoforte trade, and inasmuch as the building is wholly detached from every other, and stands in a comparatively isolated situation, they might be spared the expense and inconvenience to themselves, and the loss of time to many of their workmen, attendant on an alteration of such pipes, especially as in a recent instance at the baths and wash-houses in George-street, Hampstead-road, contrivances certainly not less dangerous had been permitted to remain undisturbed."

It appeared that the "pipes are stout cast-iron pipes of 4½ inches internal diameter, fixed so as to be in many places at not more than 4 inches from timber, and in some places in actual contact with timber, and that they are connected with a boiler from which they receive steam, the heat of which is required and is used in an extensive series of workshops to dry wood in various forms, and to prepare glue for the manufacture of pianofortes; that means are used to prevent the temperature of the steam in the boiler from reaching such a degree as to involve the possibility of any substances becoming ignited from contact with the pipes;" and in confirmation, that some of the hollow boxes technically known as caul chambers, and charged with steam, rest upon and in close contact with pine boards, which exhibit no sign of being affected by the heat of the steam.

The referees determined, "that the pipes in question being used for conveying steam, and being fixed on the inside of a building nearer than 14 inches to timber, have been so fixed contrary to the first-mentioned Metropolitan Buildings Act, but inasmuch as we are of opinion that under the circumstances hereinbefore recited there is no danger of fire being occasioned by such greater nearness of the steam-pipes to the timbers which form part of the building, we hereby declare that we are prepared to report such our opinion to the commissioners of works and buildings, if Messrs. Collard present a representation to the official referees of the circumstances set forth in such recital, and claim a modification of the rule in schedule F of the said Act, under the head "Smoke-pipes," so far as to allow pipes for the conveyance of steam so regulated and so used for the manufacture of pianofortes and of

cabinet-work, having similar requirements, to be fixed at a distance less than 14 inches from timber."

PRESENT LOW STATE OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION.

ON Wednesday evening last, at a meeting of the Association of Architectural Draughtsmen, in their rooms, Southampton-street, Strand, Mr. Kerr read a very able paper on architectural education, with reference to the proposed establishment of an architectural society, for the benefit of those connected with the profession in the capacities of students and draughtsmen. From the shortness of time before going to press, we are unable to do more than give part of the paper in our present number, but will return to it next week.

When I say that the present system of architectural education is exceedingly defective, I am sure I may appeal for confirmation to the experience of every one of you. And if I were to say that this is so much the case that the architect is perfectly anomalous among professionals, I really do not know of any instance by which the position could be confuted.

But, perhaps, if you are to understand me aright and fully in what I have now said, my meaning in the term *architectural education* must for a moment be enlarged upon. By *architecture* I signify a certain Fine Art; by *Architect* a certain artist. Thus by the term architectural education, I signify education in this Fine Art—education in the work of this Artist—the teaching of a man the Art of Design (or, as I have on another occasion expressed it, the Art of the Beautiful) in buildings. There are certain other matters which in common practice are connected with this,—which enter into the calling in life under which the Fine Art practically comes;—but with these I do not at present at all concern myself. They must not be confounded with the Fine Art,—however closely connected with it in any system of practical action they may be, they belong to quite a different class among the matters of knowledge; they are not my subject. (I might also say, perhaps, that the complaint I have to make against the present manner of architectural education does not extend to these other matters, its adjuncts, in the same degree.) The subject and the person I speak of are Architecture and the Architect as I have defined the terms; when I speak of the young architect, and when I address you in that capacity, I allude to the subject of the Art or DESIGN, and speak to the ARTIST. And when I appeal to your experience for confirmation of my position that the present system of architectural education is exceedingly defective, now that I have thus explained the exactitude of the ideas, I am confident of a response from every mind that can at all appreciate what the Fine-Art Architecture is, that the education of our young men for their future practice of this Art of Design—this Art of the Beautiful—is most inadequately conducted indeed,—conducted in a manner perfectly anomalous in its inadequacy.

Enthusiasts tell of architecture as the grandest of all arts, and dreamers dream of its genius-work as a very wide and very glorious thing—a noble work among the works of man. They point to Phidias, to Michael Angelo, to William of Wykeham, to Christopher Wren, and call upon us to count them great names in the world's history. They tell the pupil at the desk how these are brothers in his brotherhood,—he has entered upon a very honourable walk. And truly there is something in all this that commends itself well—this architecture is a noble work. Look then, for a moment, at our young architect,—and see how his noble work is prepared for.

Our hero's education professes to embrace a good many things,—planning houses from the beginning to the end, construction from the alpha to the omega, specifications, superintendence, and so on,—perhaps measuring, valuing. But there is one thing more than all this,—and it is with this one thing that we have at present to do,—he has been educated for an ARCHITECT—the Artist in Buildings. And he who can appreciate this—whose mind is able to grasp at once the entirety of the grand idea—cannot but allow me that here there is a thing of essentially another sphere from the